



**Governor
James E. McGreevey**

April 2004

**Commissioner
Jack Lettiere**

Welcome to New Jersey National Commuter Rail Conference attendees

On behalf of Governor James E. McGreevey and your host agency, NJ TRANSIT, I would like to welcome you to New Jersey. For four days you will join the nearly 500 transit officials from all over North America to discuss some of the most significant issues of the day: homeland security, strategic capital investments, future technology applications and financing innovations. NJ TRANSIT Executive Director George Warrington and I are pleased to participate in this important conference.

NJDOT proposes \$1.5 billion for transit customers in FY 2005

Earlier this month I presented a \$2.58 billion capital program for NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT for FY 2005 to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee of which \$1.5 billion is for NJ TRANSIT.

For the second straight year, Governor McGreevey's budget ensures no fare hikes yet attempts to improve the safety and convenience of bus and train riders. Ensuring safety and security on our trains and at our stations is our top priority.

Investments will be targeted to preserve and upgrade a public transportation system that covers more than 5,000 square miles and facilitates more than 222 million annual passenger trips.

The proposed FY 2005 budget includes a \$102 million transportation security plan made more compelling because of the recent bombings on Madrid trains that killed nearly 200 people.

With this budget, NJ TRANSIT will increase police patrols on trains from 144 to 212 officers and use extra bomb-sniffing dogs.

NJ TRANSIT police officers are working closely with the New Jersey State Police to conduct overhead surveillance of train tracks, bridges and tunnels from a State Police helicopter.

In addition to these security investments, the budget includes \$20 million for more park and ride spaces for commuters to fulfill the Governor's commitment of 20,000 new spots over five years.

It also includes \$76 million for accessibility improvements for passengers with physical disabilities, \$15 million for an improved onboard announcement system, \$2 million for specialized vans and \$8 million for job access and reverse commutes.



Making their bomb-sniffing rounds are Paul Marshall and Hootie, one of NJ TRANSIT's four Canine Patrol Teams.

Secaucus Junction transfer station opens new era of rail travel

The Secaucus Junction rail transfer station that opened in September 2003 was the most complicated construction project in NJ TRANSIT history.

Linking 10 regional rail lines, the station and its supporting infrastructure were built over three active rail lines, including the electrified Northeast Corridor, one of the busiest rail corridors in the world.

The construction zone along the Northeast Corridor spanned two miles as Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT upgraded the century-old rail infrastructure to support the new station operations. This new station allows NJ TRANSIT customers access to many new destinations in New Jersey and the surrounding region and shaves up to 15 minutes off the travel time of rail passengers traveling to midtown Manhattan.



Aerial view of Secaucus Junction

River LINE light rail posts early successes

Governor James E. McGreevey headed the list of officials who inaugurated the historic new River LINE light rail service on March 13.

In its first month River LINE is meeting NJ TRANSIT's projections of 3,000 trips on weekdays and nearly 5,000 on weekend days — and has drawn early positive reactions.

For a \$1.10 fare, trains on the 34-mile rail line along the Delaware River stop in 12 communities between downtown

Trenton and the Camden Waterfront. It is funded by state dollars.

NJ TRANSIT will continue working with the three counties and 19 municipalities along the line to attract businesses and mixed use development.

The trains run every half hour from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., except for Saturday, when trains run until midnight. The trains will run every 15 minutes by the end of May.

River LINE riders in Trenton can connect to Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT's Northeast Corridor Line to Newark's Penn Station, Newark Liberty Airport, New York Penn Station and stations in between.

At the Camden end, River LINE riders can get off at the Entertainment Center, the Aquarium and the Walter Rand Transportation Center where they can make connections to NJ TRANSIT buses, PATCO, Lindenwald and the Atlantic City Rail Line.

In addition, NJ TRANSIT's Capital Connection buses travel between the Trenton Rail Station, Downtown Trenton and the State house. Burlink operates shuttle bus service from several Burlington County stations along the River LINE and the South Jersey Transportation Authority runs shuttle buses and vans to worksites in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties.

Schedules and other information are available at www.RiverLINE.com



Governor James E. McGreevey (at microphone) officiates at inaugural run of River LINE light rail.



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